His Highness' Government appointed an Educational Reorganization Committee under the presidentship of Mr. K. G. Saiyidain, Director of Education and an eminent educationist who had served on the Basic Education Committee and with Dr. Zakir Hussain, who was the Chairman of that Committee as one of the members, to examine the suitability and adequacy of the existing system of primary and secondary education in the State and make recommendations for its improvement. The new schemes recommended by the Committee included besides acceleration of the pace of educational expansion at the primary stage, the introduction of Basic education in which craft teaching and book learning are closely integrated. 658

In pursuance of the scheme for the introduction of Basic education, a number of ordinary Primary schools were converted into Basic schools.

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A well-equipped Medical Department is rendering medical aid to the people. In recent years, several qualified doctors were deputed for higher training in different branches of medicine and surgery to British Universities and the medical staff today includes doctors with high specialized and general qualifications. The number of civil hospitals and dispensaries wholly maintained by the Government is 92. Besides, there are 4 Mission hospitals which receive aid from the Government. A grant-in-aid was also sanctioned by the Government in favour of the Kashmir National Hospital and Maternity Home in Srinagar. To supplement the existing arrangements for providing medical relief to the people, the Government have undertaken the appointment of subsidized practitioners in rural areas. Under this scheme, there are at present 70 practitioners practising in rural areas and receiving subsidies from the Government. Recently the construction of 2 new hospitals, one at Srinagar and the other at Jammu, was started. The hospital at Jammu was completed at the close of the last year at a cost of over Rs. 8 lakhs, and opened by His Highness in April 1943. His Highness also opened a well-equipped hospital at Mirpur. The hospital at Srinagar, estimated to cost over 744

744 Rs. 17 lakhs, is in progress. His Highness' Government were among the first in India to set up a special organization for T. B. diseases. The Tuberculosis Department now maintains 5 institutions, 3 in Kashmir and 2 in Jammu, including a well-built and properly staffed Sanatorium at Tangmarg in Kashmir. Special staff is maintained for fighting epidemic diseases. Jammu Province was perennially afflicted with considerable outbreaks of plague in certain areas. An anti-plague scheme was tried in Jammu some years ago and since then this Province has been comparatively free from the disease. The magnitude of work done by the special epidemic staff may be judged from the fact that during the cholera epidemic of 1935, 13,00,000 inoculations were performed in Kashmir Province. This is believed to be the record number of mass inoculations performed anywhere at one time. In August 1941, there was another outbreak of cholera in Kashmir Province, but it was soon brought under control. Special measures to combat malaria in Jammu Province are under consideration. Active measures have been taken to meet the danger of venereal diseases that are particularly prevalent in certain areas in Jammu Province. Special dispensaries have been maintained for the treatment of these diseases. In addition, educational propaganda is being carried on so that enlightenment may lead to the prevention of these diseases. A Committee has been set up to consider the adoption of further measures to check these diseases.

The Medical Department has recently been reorganized with the object of extending the range and quality of medical relief to the people. The staff has been strengthened and medical officers appointed in each district to supervise the medical and health work in the districts concerned.

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491 In a mountainous country like Jammu and Kashmir State, the problem of communications is very important. The two principal roads that link the State with British India are (1) the Jhelum Valley Road and (2) the Banihal Cart Road. Both are metalled. The length of the Jhelum Valley Road is 132 miles, of which about half is

312 In Jammu the extension of the Ujh Canal was started at an estimated cost of Rs. 695,422 in the year 1924 and major portion of the work is nearly finished. Moreover extension to Distributary No. 9 of the Ranbir Canal has also been carried out at a cost of Rs. 140,032.

During the decade under report the length of the canals has increased from 325·21 miles to 460·78 miles giving a net increase of 135·49 miles in length and increase of 46,965 acres in area which no doubt is a record of good progress. Out of a total expenditure of Rs. 11,813,000 incurred on irrigation works from 1902-03 upto end of 1928-29 Rs. 3,496,361 were spent during the last decade. The expenditure on irrigation works from 1921 to 1929 amounts to Rs. 3,486,361 while the receipts come to Rs. 2,643,964. The position may be summed up in the words of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department as follows:—

"Looking at either from the point of view of the revenue realised by the State or the prosperity of the Illaqas in which the various canals pass there can be no doubt that they have more than amply fulfilled the expectations with which they were started. Vast areas in the Jammu and Kashmir Provinces have now been made fertile. Places which at one time appeared wilderness and uninhabitable and suffered even from want of drinking water are now full of green fields and well grown fruit gardens. The price of the land has considerably increased and the inhabitants are now in a comparatively prosperous condition".

133 164 **19. State of Public Health.**—In a vast country like Jammu and Kashmir State with no homogeniety of climate and seasonal conditions, the factors governing public health are so varied that it is difficult to form a correct estimate for the entire country as to the propitiousness or otherwise of the individual years much less of a decade. The big mountain barriers divide the territory into distinct water tight compartments each possessing separate traits of climate with the result that while the Jammu Province might be passing through a severe epidemic of Plague the province of Kashmir is found to be immune from the touch of the epidemic, and on the other hand prevalence of Cholera in Kashmir in particular years has little effect upon Jammu, not to say of the far-flung Frontier regions.

164 744 This view derives ample support from the survey of the various epidemics during the last decade. During the period of ten years 1921-30 there have been 9 annual visitations of Plague in the Jammu Province more especially in the Jammu district while Kashmir Province enjoyed complete immunity for all these years with the exception of 1926 when in the month of November Plague broke out in the Awantipura and Kulgam tehsils claiming 38 victims. As regards Kashmir Cholera has visited the province in 1924, 25, 27, 29 and 30 but with the exception of 1929 when 70 persons died of Cholera in Basohli tehsil the Jammu Province has been almost free from the disease. The total mortality from the infectious diseases is given in the following table :—

Cholera	... 19,857
Small-pox	... 15,546
Plague	... 5,251

Plague.— The total deaths from plague in the Jammu Province came to 5,222 as against 9,134 of the last decade which shows that although the visitations of the epidemic have been frequent and regular the loss of life has been reduced by almost 50 per cent. which is due to the prompt and effective measures taken to combat the disease by the Health and Medical Departments in the shape of systematic trapping of rats, disinfection of houses and anti-plague inoculations. With the exception of the epidemic of 1924 which levied a toll of 2,242 lives the course of the disease has been sporadic and unperceived.

The only exceptional turn taken by the disease was to make its appearance in the Kashmir Province in 1926 when the Kulgam and Awantipura tehsils

were affected by it where out of 81 seizures 69 died. Prompt and effective measures such as prevention of outside intercourse, vacating and actual burning of 18 infected houses after payment of compensation of Rs. 8,045 to the villagers, inoculation of 1,882 persons, segregation of the sick, destruction of the rats succeeded in completely stamping the disease out of the province as the subsequent years have fortunately been quite free from its recrudescence. 164 744

Cholera.—The next disease of epidemic nature is cholera which may be said to have localised in Kashmir. The total mortality inflicted by it during the decade comes to 19,857 of which 12,952 deaths occurred in the Kashmir Province and 5,249 in Poonch. The opening three years of the decade 1921, 22, 23 were practically free from the disease till 1924 when Uri, Uttarmachhipura, Baramulla tehsils and four villages of the Srinagar tehsil suffered from a mild attack resulting in 135 deaths in all. The year 1925, however, saw the outbreak of cholera in a virulent and widespread form in the valley which was responsible for a mortality of 11,597 souls out of a total of 12,952 for the decade in the Kashmir Province. Anti-cholera inoculation was carried out on a large scale and met with an unprecedented success, 83,996 being inoculated with the first dose and 57,366 with both doses of cholera vaccine which cost the State Rs. 30,000 during this year. The year 1927 and 1928 passed off peacefully and in 1929 the disease made another appearance but was soon driven out with the help of prompt and energetic measures. Out of 227 cases only 125 proved fatal. Out of a total of 5,249 deaths from cholera in Poonch as many as 3,472 took place in 1978 (1922-23) the remaining 700 being divided between nine years.

The number of deaths from cholera in the Kashmir Province has fallen from 17,358 in the last decade to 13,255 which no doubt shows an improved state of affairs. The slight increase in the State totals however is due to a heavy mortality of 5,249 in Poonch as against 196 of the past decade.

Small-pox. The total mortality for the State is 15,546 as against 16,405 of the last decade which shows that there has been a decrease but the decrease is not commensurate with the progress of the times. Although a good deal of progress has been made in the vaccinating arrangements in the cities it is apparent that efforts on a much wider scale are necessary in the Moffusil to stop mortality from such preventible causes. The disease has a severer hold on the Kashmir Province than on the Jammu. The mortality in the Moffusil was abnormal during the year 1923 when 1,972 deaths occurred from small-pox while for the city of Srinagar the years 1982 and especially 1984-85 were exceptionally bad being responsible for 803 and 1,051 deaths (total 1,854). Out of total deaths of 2,324 that took place within Srinagar Municipal limits during these years 1,854 deaths *i. e.*, 80 per cent. occurred during these two years, the remaining 20 per cent. deaths being distributed over 8 years. The figure of 5 and 1 deaths in the city during 1984-85 and 1985-86 given by the Health Officer, Srinagar would (if reliable) represent an ideal state and absolute control over the disease provided this is continued in subsequent years. There can be no denial that the expansion of the vaccination activities throughout the city by appointing vaccinators by the Municipality in each ward has done a good deal to stamp out this curse and if cases still happen the responsibility lies with the citizens who do not avail of the facilities offered.

Of the remaining diseases fevers are responsible for 388,478 deaths but it would not be of much use to examine this cause which is so very indefinite, as each and every death is attributed by the non-technical village agency responsible for record of vital statistics to fever. Influenza made appearance in the Frontier Districts but did not do much damage and cases of Typhus occurred in Kashmir Province.

To sum up it may be safely concluded that the decade has been exceptionally fortunate and propitious as compared to its predecessor on account of its enjoying complete immunity from the hellish visitation of Influenza which

164 744 carried away about 45,000 souls or other curses like the War or the big famines. The attacks of plague and cholera enumerated above have also been fewer and of lesser intensity and much loss of life was averted by the prompt and effective measures taken by the Medical and Health Departments.

Venereal Diseases.—Although the mortality figures under venereal diseases are not separately available for absense of a separate column in the death registers yet it is an established fact that these diseases are working great havoc amidst the population of Ramnagar, Basohli and other hilly tehsils of the Jammu Province, where the rate of increase in population is comparatively much lower. In order to prevent the further spread of this highly contagious disease and also to eradicate it in the localities where it holds away at present His Highness' Government opened a Venereal Diseases' Hospital under the charge of an Assistant Surgeon in the Ramnagar tehsil which has been treating the sufferers on Western lines and the ignorant rural population which formerly looked askance at the modern methods of treatment has now grown accustomed and shows considerable eagerness to avail themselves of the treatment. The work done by the hospital during the last 4 years is recorded in the following statement. The Chief Medical Officer, Jammu states that probably 80 per cent. of the adult population or less are tainted with syphilis and about 28 per cent. with gonorhea, which seems to be an exaggerated view. [743]

Year.	Syphilis.	Gonorhea.	No. of injections given by Neo-Salvarsan.
1934-35 ..	849	81	866
1935-36 ..	1,158	90	1,143
1936-37 ..	919	135	1,164
1937-38 ..	2,005	181	2,373

Expenditure per head of population, 1931.

	Rs. a. p.
State ..	0 2 0
Jammu Province ..	0 1 7
Kashmir ..	0 2 0

During the decade under review the Government has been contributing in a greater measure towards the extension of the Medical Department and the annual expenditure which stood at Rs. 295,711 in 1921 rose to Rs. 469,397 in 1930 which gives an expenditure of 2 annas per head of population against 0-1-7 of 1921 and 0-0-10 of 1911.

743 The number of hospitals and dispensaries has increased from 76 in 1921 to 91 in 1930 and the increasing popularity of these institutions is evidenced by the regular increase in the number of out-patients from year to year. In 1921 the number of out-patients was 735,395 while in 1930 the number went up to 1,130,412 giving an increase of about 4 lacs or 56 per cent. in ten years. The number of operations (major and minor) rose from 22,309 in 1920 to 58,392 in 1930 *i. e.* an increase of over 200 per cent. in the decade.

744 364 **20. Sanitation.**—The expenditure on sanitation has also increased from Rs. 49,067 in 1921 to Rs. 67,552 in 1930 and the decade has been particularly favoured by attachment of greater attention of the authorities towards sanitary improvement. It has witnessed the inauguration of three new Notified Area Committees in Sopore, Udhampur and Mirpur towns, sanitation whereof is now entrusted to these Committees which receive a handsome contribution from the Government and also raise further funds by taxation. The two Municipalities in the cities of Jammu and Srinagar are of course looking after their respective sanitation through technical experts and sanitary staff. The various schemes of sanitary improvement particularly the Drainage and City Extension Schemes of Srinagar are already being put in proper shape and other schemes will it is hoped also receive sympathetic treatment in due course.

The total expenditure incurred by the Jammu Municipality during the decade is as under :— 744 364

	Rs.
Expenditure on Public Health	... 339,849
" " Sanitation and Sanitary improvements	... 165,239
" " Public Instruction	... 5,921

86 streets were paved and drained, 43 were drained only, one new road and one nullah were constructed, 2 roads were remetalled, and 399 lights were added.

21. Improvement in Communications.—The principal requisites for the material prosperity of a country is a sound system of communications by land, by water and during the recent progressive times also by air. By breaking up the isolation of the different parts of a country, bringing into closer and immediate contact the village and the town and enabling the speediest development of the agricultural, mineral and other industrial resources of the country a backward tract is soon brought to the front rank of civilized and advanced countries through the blessings of improved systems of transport and communications. 491 494

Want of suitable communications and transport facilities have proved great obstacles to the political and economic development of India and constitute still greater impediments in the case of our State. In India a large part of deficiency has been made up by the various systems of Railways and Roads which have worked great economic and social improvement by breaking up the isolation of the village, the immobility of labour and the conservatism of the people.

Unfortunately due to the hilly character of the country the average height of which is 5,600 feet above sea level and the mountain barriers that dismember it, the work of improvement is not so easy and the progress cannot be expected to be as speedy as in the plains. In 1889 there was no continuous road to drive through in Kashmir although there existed patches of small lengths between different towns. The routes were difficult and passed over dangerous ascents and descents rendering the journey to Kashmir valley very difficult. Thanks to the generous grants expended by His Highness' Government on improvement of communications from year to year that during the short space of 40 years we find that marvellous progress has been made in this direction. The following are the principal road systems :—

The Jhelum Valley Road.—This road has a length of 132 miles from Srinagar to the Kohala Bridge where a further length of 64 miles of Kohala-Murree-Pindi route of the British territory connects the valley with the Punjab. Till the year 1922 this was the only road for vehicular communication between the Punjab and Kashmir. This road has no doubt opened up the country to a great extent and given great impetus to export and import trade which during the last decade has considerably increased in volume. The old-type ekkas and bullock-carts a delaysome and costlier means of transport have been replaced by modern means of cheap and speedy transport by motor lorries. The increase of trade and traffic is evidenced by the increased revenue from the road toll which amounts to 3 lacs a year.

Garhi-Habibullah Road from Domel.—This road with a length of 12 miles links up the State with the Hazara border at Ramkot from where vehicular traffic passes over the Garhi-Habibullah road in the British territory till it joins Railway at Abbotabad. During the decade improvements costing Rs. 97,524 were effected on this road.

The Banihal Cart Road.—Both the above routes to Srinagar being lengthy and tedious did not bring that close touch between the two provinces